

# Park Rules & Trail Map

## Park Map

### Mt. Apatite

#### City of Auburn

#### Parks & Recreation

## PARK RULES

The following rules and regulations are based on the City of Auburn municipal ordinances, as proposed by the Auburn Parks & Recreation Department and adopted by the Auburn City Council.

1. Mount Apatite Park is owned and administered by the City of Auburn
  2. Mount Apatite Park is open to the public from dawn to dusk.
  3. It is unlawful to harm any plants or animals within the park boundaries, or to remove them from the park. This includes the taking of firewood from any area within the park.
  4. Within and among the exposed mineral resources in the area known as "the mines", it is permitted to use hand tools to explore for mineral and gem specimens to a depth of two feet.
  5. The use of generators, compressors, pumps and/or any other form of mineral exploration mechanism is strictly forbidden.
  6. Camping or overnight use of the park is forbidden.
  7. The use of motorized vehicles within the park boundaries is limited to Auburn Parks and Recreation personnel, Auburn Police, Auburn Fire Dept. and any other individual with written authorization. Other than snowmobiles, the use of dirt bikes, ATVs and other off-road vehicles by any other party is strictly forbidden.
  8. No swimming, diving or wading is allowed in any park waters.
  9. No hunting by firearm or bow, trapping or discharging of firearms within the park boundaries is allowed.
  10. Building or attempting to build fires is strictly forbidden.
  11. No drugs or alcoholic beverages are permitted within park boundaries.
  12. Littering or dumping materials, solid waste or other refuse is forbidden.
- Violations of these or any other park rules are punishable by up to a \$200.00 fine per offense.

## Park History

Mount Apatite Park is a three-hundred acre park located in the western portion of the city. The park offers a wide variety of recreational pursuits

## PARK CULTURAL & NATURAL HISTORY

not often found in municipal park settings. The bulk of the property was purchased by the city in the early 1970s.

In the summer of 1994, with assistance from a Land & Water Conservation fund-matching grant, five kilometers (3.1 miles) of multi-purpose trails were constructed within the park. In 1997, we received two grants through the National Recreational Trails Act, which are being used to improve park signage, existing trails and to add trails to the quarry area.

The park is open to the public from dawn to dusk, year round. In the winter, the trail is groomed for cross-country skiing and snow shoeing. In spring, summer and fall, the trails are open to mountain bikers, runners, bikers and other non-motorized trail users. As with all municipal parks, hunting is not allowed within park boundaries.

## Geology

Mount Apatite is named for the mineral "apatite", found there in the geologic features.

Exploration of Mount Apatite began as early as 1839 when records show that three specimens of tourmaline were added to the collection of the Maine State Geologist. Over the course of the next hundred years, some remarkable finds have added to the renown of Mt. Apatite as a great place to look for semi-precious stones and other minerals.

In the 1880s, some 1500 tourmaline crystals were removed from an exploratory mine here. These varied in length from 1/2" to 4", occurring in lovely shades of pastel pink, blue, lilac, yellow and green. The American Museum of Natural History in New York City displays and exquisite green rectangular tourmaline stone weighing 11.87 carats that was cut from Mt. Apatite.

In 1902, the Maine Feldspar Company began mining feldspar at Mt. Apatite. During this early period a massive crystal of smoky quartz of approximately 19 1/2" long and 9 1/2" thick was discovered. Large masses of flawless material may be seen in this specimen which is a deep

amber in color. This makes up the heart of the museum display at Penham's of West Paris.

## Plants

Mount Apatite flora is representative of all regions found across Central Maine, where plant succession has responded to human activity over the years. Much of the park area was used for farming and pasture and has since returned to forest. The tree stand ranges in age from 10 to 100 years.

## Stand Description

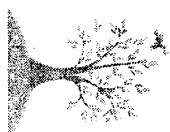
| Dominant Trees | Shrub Layer      | Herbaceous Layer |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| White Pine     | Blueberry        | Clintonia        |
| Red Oak        | Honeysuckle      | Trailing Arbutus |
| Red Maple      | Sunac            | Wintergreen      |
| White Ash      | Dogwood          | Partridgeberry   |
| Beech          | Choke Cherry     | Club Moss        |
| White Birch    | Bittersweet      | Sunflower        |
| Yellow Birch   | Virginia Creeper | Bracken Fern     |
| Gray Birch     |                  | Sensitive Fern   |
| Brown Ash      |                  | Sassafras        |
| Balsam Fir     |                  | Golden Thread    |
|                |                  | Poison Ivy       |

## Animals

The park provides habitat for a wide variety of animal species. The flooded quarries and seasonal pools provide breeding areas for wood frogs, American toads, spotted salamanders and spring peepers.

White-tailed deer browse the ridge and make trails of their own throughout the park. They are joined by other mammals: gray & flying squirrels, raccoon, red fox, coyote, snowshoe hare, mice, moles and the occasional moose.

Birds here are typical to this type of habitat and include: broad-winged hawk, great horned owl, ruffed grouse, downy, hairy and pileated woodpeckers, black-capped chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, golden-crowned kinglet, yellow-rumped, pine, black & white and redstart warblers, phoebe, towhee and the great crested flycatcher, among many others.



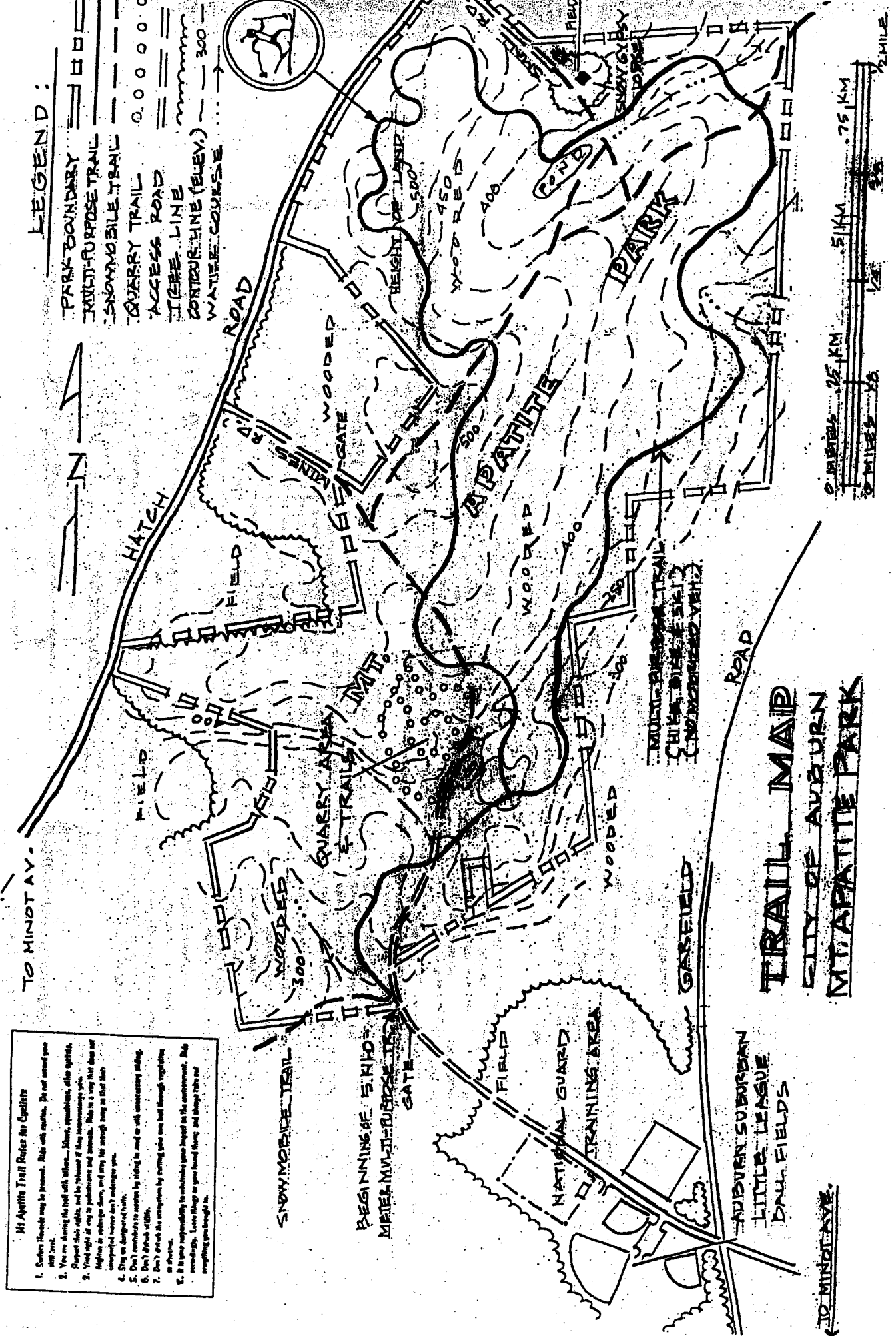
# Mt. Apatite Trail Rules for Cyclists

1. Cyclists should be present. Ride with caution. Do not exceed your skill level.
2. You are sharing the trail with others—hikers, joggers, and other cyclists. Respect their rights, and be courteous of their surroundings.
3. Yield right of way to pedestrians and hikers. This is a way that does not require a vehicle, and they are much more vulnerable than you are.
4. Stay on designated trails.
5. Do not ride in areas by riding in mud or with unnecessary riding.
6. Do not drink alcohol.
7. Do not drink the water by using your own bottle through vegetation or stream.
8. It is your responsibility to maintain your bicycle in the environment. This includes: Leave things as you found them, and always take out everything you brought in.

TO MINDTAY.

## LEGEND:

- PARK BOUNDARY
- MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL
- SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
- QUARRY TRAIL
- ACCESS ROAD
- TRAIL LINE
- CONTOUR LINE (ELEV.)
- WATER COURSE



TRAIL MAP  
 CITY OF AUBURN  
 MT. APATITE PARK

TO MINDTAY.